

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FOR BURIAL BENEFITS (UNDER 38 U.S.C., CHAPTER 23)

IMPORTANT - READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

1. **RESPONDENT BURDEN:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Clearance Officer (045A4), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420. **SEND COMMENTS ONLY. DO NOT SEND THIS FORM OR REQUESTS FOR BENEFITS TO THIS ADDRESS.**

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: The responses you submit are considered confidential, (38 U.S.C. 5701). They may be disclosed outside the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) only if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22, Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

2. GENERAL

a. **BURIAL ALLOWANCE** – An amount towards the expenses of the funeral and burial of the veteran's remains. Burial includes all recognized methods of interment.

b. **PLOT ALLOWANCE** – Plot means the final resting place of the remains. The allowance is payable towards:

- (1) Expenses incurred for the plot or interment if burial was not in a national cemetery or other cemetery under the jurisdiction of the United States; OR
- (2) Expenses payable to a State (or political subdivision) if the veteran died from nonservice-connected causes and was buried in a State-owned cemetery or section used solely for the remains of persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

c. **BURIAL ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH** – When the veteran's death occurred as the result of a service-connected disability, a special "service-connected" rate is payable.

d. **TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES** – The cost of transporting the body to the place of burial may be paid in addition to the burial allowance when:

- (1) The veteran died of a service-connected disability or had a compensable service-connected disability and burial is in a national cemetery; OR
- (2) The veteran died while in a hospital, domiciliary or nursing home to which he/she had been properly admitted under authority of VA; OR
- (3) The veteran died en route while traveling under prior authorization of VA for the purpose of examination, treatment or care.

3. WHO SHOULD FILE A CLAIM

a. **CREDITOR** – If expenses have not been paid, the claim should be filed by the funeral director or crematory service by completing Parts I, II, and IV. If the funeral director or crematory service has paid or advanced funds for or furnished the plot or interment expenses, inclusion of these items on the statement of account will serve as claim for the plot allowance. If the cemetery owner or other creditor has not been paid for the plot and related interment expenses, he/she may file claim by completing Parts I, III, and IV. If both the funeral director and cemetery owner are unpaid, each must submit a separate VA Form 21-530 signed by the person who authorized services.

b. **PERSON WHOSE FUNDS WERE USED** – If all creditors have been paid, the claim should be filed by the person or persons whose personal funds were used by completing Parts I, II, and IV.